

### AN ENEMY'S OPINION

A campaign sheet published at Macleod, while bitterly abusing Mr. Cochrane and his friends expresses its admiration for a certain political party in the following unmistakeable language:

"It must be confessed that while the Conservative party is handicapped by its candidate, the Liberal candidate is staggering under the weight of his party. Mr. Frank Oliver would be a capable if not a brilliant representative. But for the Liberal party, the Liberal policies and most of the Liberal leaders we have no use. The party has been no friend to the North West, and its views on North West affairs are those of a man who obtains his knowledge of a room by a peep through the key hole. It has reformed nothing not even itself, and if given the chance, would perform nothing. Its policies—but here we are lost. On the tariff its changes have been kaleidoscopic, Commercial Union, Unrestricted Reciprocity, Free Trade, Tariff for Revenue and Gradual Lowering of the Tariff, succeeding each other with startling rapidity. On the School Question it has been shilly-shallying, anything to avoid committing itself, anything to catch votes. No, we cannot swallow the Liberal party, and until it gets some new blood, finds out where it is, and adopts a broader and more statesmanlike platform, the country will look askance at it whether it goes into power on June 23rd or not."

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# The Liberals and the North West.

## WHAT A GRIT ADMINISTRATION MEANS TO US IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

### Three-quarters of a Million Dollars yearly would be taken from us.--The Grits' Convicted by Their Own Figures.

To The Editor of THE HERALD.

SIR,—At the Reform meeting in the Opera House on Tuesday night, Mr. Oliver characterized as "untrue" my general reference to Reform opposition to North West expenditures. With your permission I propose to demonstrate what I should have done at the meeting had I had an opportunity to reply, viz., that facts only too abundantly establish the correctness of my contention.

For instance, one need go no further than the campaign literature the Grits are now circulating for evidence in this connection. In their "Facts for the Electors" (presumably for Eastern Electors) the Government is assailed for its increased expenditure, and a number of items affecting the North West are specially singled out for attack. The Conservative party is arraigned because since 1878 expenditure has increased as follows: Arts, agriculture and statistics, 180 per cent; Quarantine, 287 per cent; Indians' 128 per cent; North West Territories Government, 1420 per cent; Mounted Police, 83 per cent.

The same kind of criticism can be found in almost any volume of Hansard. I will take the 1895 debates, for instance, as very recent evidence, and quote just one example. From this we are able to learn just what the North West has to expect from the Grits should they attain power.

Challenged to show, how under the Reform Tariff Policy, they would make their expenditures square with their revenues, the Grits put up Mr. Charlton (who sits on the front Opposition bench next to Sir Richard Cartwright) to explain the modus operandi. The idea was to cut down expenditure, particularly on the North West. A table of the proposed reductions, based on the 1894 expenditure, was submitted (See Hansard 1895, Vol., II, pages 1213-14) From this I select a few items specially affecting the west.

	1894	Proposed
	Exp'd't.	Reduct'n
Agriculture.....	\$264,879	\$ 75,000
Immigration.....	202,235	50,000
Indians.....	968,563	300,000
Mounted Police.....	611,203	125,000
N.W.T. Government	276,951	200,000
		\$750,000

On these few items alone, it will be observed, we are to be mulcted three quarters of a million dollars. Mr. Charlton was not sure but that he would wipe out the whole of the immigration vote; and he also thought, strictly speaking, the whole Territorial Government vote should be left out, his opinion being that the people of the Territories should pay for their own local Government. With great liberality, however, he allowed \$75,951 for incidentals!

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Let us take a few of these reductions representing money actually and directly expended in the Territories, and see how a Grit Tariff and Administration will work out for us. About 25 per cent of the Indians are outside of the Territories, so it is fair to deduct that proportion from the reduction. Let us also leave out Immigration, and Agriculture, though nearly \$7,000 is given in direct aid to the Territorial Agricultural Societies, and the expenditure in the Territories under the head of Experimental Farms and dairying is very largely in excess of that figure. We then get:

	Reduction.
Indians .....	\$225,000
Mounted Police.....	125,000
Territorial Government.....	200,000

Total ..... \$550,000

To be perfectly fair, let us assume that only 75 per cent of this sum is expended in the Territories themselves. This means that under Reform rule the Territories will be deprived of \$412,500 a year they now get from the Federal Government as an offset to the taxes they pay.

Let us analyse this a little further. The total amount of Federal taxation for the Dominion is \$5.01 per head per annum. The white (i. e. tax-paying) population of the Territories in 1894 was 65,873. This means that the Territories contribute to the Federal exchequer in taxes \$329,823.73 per annum. The Reformers propose actually to deprive us of Federal expenditure largely in excess of our total contribution to the Federal treasury! In other words, even if the Reformers abolished our taxation altogether, the people of the Territories would be actually out of pocket to the tune of \$82,677 by the Reformers coming into power, without taking into consideration the \$200,000 the Territories would have to raise by local taxation for Territorial Government, which must be carried on some how. (If, by the way, that \$200,000 is a useless extravagance, as his party leaders maintain, what are we to think of the manner in which Mr. Oliver has been performing his duties as an M. L. A.?)

But the Reformers would not abolish the whole of our taxation. The total of Mr. Charlton's proposed reductions is \$3,948,975. The total annual expenditure of the Dominion is

\$38,132,000. Even supposing the Reformers were true to their promises of economy, the general rate of taxation would be only reduced about 10 per cent; that is, from \$5.01 per head to \$4.51 per head. This means that the Territories' contribution to Federal taxation would be reduced by \$32,982. In order to get that reduction, we are to be deprived of \$412,500 we now have spent amongst us; besides having to tax ourselves \$200,000 a year for local Government, and besides having to forego the protection which gives us command of the British Columbia market; which is building up a local market for our hogs, malt, etc.; which gives us from five to seven cents a bushel for our wheat more than our American neighbours are getting, and a better price for our horses and cattle; and which prevents our ranch country being eaten out by free importations of American stock, as the Montana and Wyoming ranges have been eaten out. What does the North West taxpayer think of the bargain?

Look at the matter in one more aspect. The Grits propose to decrease the general expenditure 10 per cent. They propose to decrease the North-West expenditure 30 per cent! Is not this discrimination against the West? The net result of their proposed "economies" is that, whereas they promise to benefit the average taxpayer to the extent of 50 cents a year, the people of the North-West will, in effect, be \$8.93 per head out of pocket by a change of Government, apart from indirect but equally substantial losses! (This \$8.93 is made up thus: \$6.40 reduced federal expenditure, plus \$3.03 local taxation for Territorial Government, minus 50 cents general reduction of Federal taxation.)

Let the practical Albertan dismiss the frothy generalities of Mr. Oliver and get down to figures. He will then see just what he stands to lose by voting for Mr. Oliver.

Remember, I make no attempt to take account of the frightful loss to the people of the West in life and property which would probably result from this policy of starving the Indians and abolishing police protection. Remember, also, I have only been dealing with the ordinary Government expenditure. When one comes to extraordinary expenditure, the North West will see how infinitely

much more it stands to lose by putting the Grits in power. The Grits say they will reduce the debt as well as the general expenditure. This means no assistance to railways, steamships and public works. I will leave out of consideration the reduction of ocean freights we should secure by the Conservative policy of a fast Atlantic line service, and the reduction of inland freights by the Conservative policy of deepening the canals. I will confine myself to enterprises directly Western. We want the Hudson's Bay railway to give us competition. The Grits will not aid it; and, by their reducing the tariff and the taxation, they could not do so even if they would. We want the Crow's Nest Railway to give us cheaper freights on our produce to British Columbia and to enlarge our home market by increasing Alberta's output of coal, establishing smelters here, etc. The Grits are unwilling and unable to assist it. We shall get these benefits from the Conservatives; as

well as having the considerable benefit of the money put in circulation in the West by the construction of these enterprises. We want public money spent to assist irrigation enterprises, to promote settlement, to aid creameries, to establish a dead meat trade and to extend the experimental farm system to Alberta. The Grits are opposed to these expenditures and will be powerless under their tariff policy to make such, even if they did approve them. The Conservatives have both the will and the policy requisite to accord them.

But I need not pursue the argument. I wished but to prove by figures the statement of mine which Mr. Oliver discourteously called "untrue." I think I have done so. If Mr. Oliver, or any one else, thinks I have not, I have lots more proof to furnish.

Yours truly,

FRANCIS H. TURNOCK.

Calgary, May 21st, 1896.

## ELECTORS OF ALBERTA:

Does not the foregoing prove that the Reformers still continue their policy of hostility to the North West, which caused Mr. Oliver after the last elections, to denounce them in his newspaper, the Edmonton Bulletin (on 14th March, 1891) as follows:

"The reason that they (the people of the Territories) do not kick more vigorously when election day arrives is because they have no assurance that if the Opposition attained power tomorrow, they would do any better in these respects than the Government is doing. The Liberals have never made a study of the North West or its affairs, have never championed its cause or that of its settlers—more than to score a point for the party when opportunity offered—and indeed have permitted themselves to rest under the libel that they are anything but friends of the North West. Whatever may be the shortcomings of the Government party, they at least profess an interest in the Territories, which the Opposition does not even profess. Under the circumstances the people of the Territories can scarcely be expected to enthuse much over a prospective change of Government, or to give a majority in favour of it."

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## TALK IS CHEAP

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One of the principle arguments Mr. Oliver's hired Organ uses against Mr. Cochrane is that he is not a platform speaker. We let the Edmonton Bulletin reply to this, in the following short and sweet extract from its issue of May 31, 1890:

"But this speech was something more than a speech. It was part of a political act, and for Mr. Davin's action on that occasion the Bulletin has neither admiration or sympathy. This country requires something more of its statesmen than the ability to jangle words together pleasantly. **TALK IS CHEAP AND TALKERS ARE STILL CHEAPER.** What is needed is men who can and will do—and do it well."

Which is one of the truest things the Bulletin has ever said. Mr. Cochrane is the man who will do. Mr. Oliver is the man who will talk. "Talk is cheap and talkers are still cheaper."